

**REMARKS**

Favorable consideration and allowance of claims 15-34 are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Applicants thank the Examiner for conducting an interview with Applicants' representative on December 14, 2007. Claim 15 and the Brown patent were discussed during the interview. The substance of the interview is reflected by the following comments.

**Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112**

Claims 15-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite, due to the use, in claim 15, of the phrase "wherein when the tire pressure changes in a manner characteristic of a filling process." Claim 15 is amended herein to change the above-mentioned phrase to "wherein, when the difference between the determined tire pressure value and the stored nominal value exceeds a predetermined threshold value." Support for this amendment is present, for example, in ¶ [0010] of Applicants' specification.

Amended claim 15 removes the basis for the rejection thereof and definitely recites the steps of the method. In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that claims 15-34 are definite.

**Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103**

Claims 15-21 and 25-34 were rejected 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Brown et al. (US 6,868,358); Claims 22 and 23 were rejected 35

U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Brown in view of Lin et al. (US 2002/0024432); and Claim 24 was rejected 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Brown in view of Boesch (US 6,118,369). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections as set forth below.

Applicants submit that the cited prior art fails to teach or suggest all of the limitations of claim 15. In particular, Brown does not disclose the feature of claim 15 of “wherein, when the difference between the determined tire pressure value and the stored nominal value exceeds a predetermined threshold value, the stored nominal value is replaced by a new nominal value, with the determined tire pressure value being used to determine the new nominal value.”

Brown does not determine when a difference between a determined tire pressure value and a stored nominal value exceeds a predetermined threshold value. Instead, Brown measures gauge pressure, corrects the gauge pressure to a filtered pressure value (to compensate for load, temperature and environmental pressure), and compares the filtered pressure value to a pressure warning threshold. *See, e.g., col. 3, lines 28-53 and col. 7, lines 40-44.* Thus, Brown’s method is based on a comparison between a filtered pressure value and a pressure warning threshold. Brown does not disclose any determination of a difference between a determined tire pressure value and a stored nominal value. Moreover, Brown does not determine whether such a difference exceeds a predetermined threshold value.

With regard to a difference between a determined tire pressure value and a stored nominal value exceeding a predetermined threshold value, the Office Action refers to col. 15, line 62 – col. 16, line 25 of Brown. *See page 4, lines 1-2.* The cited excerpt, however, is directed only to evaluating amounts of “time left” before crossing a threshold and establishing a pressure-temperature map.

Additionally, Brown fails to disclose that the stored nominal value is replaced by a new nominal value, with the determined tire pressure value being used to determine the new nominal value. None of the excerpts (col. 8, lines 25-42; col. 11, line 49; and col. 12, lines 6-18) cited in the Office Action discloses this feature of the claim. Instead, col. 8, lines 25-42 describes comparing filtered pressure values to pressure threshold values and identifying a leak rate; col. 11, line 49 mentions triggering a “time left” computation; and col. 12, lines 6-18 discuss leak rates. None of these disclosures correspond to the feature of claim 15 of “the stored nominal value is replaced by a new nominal value, with the determined tire pressure value being used to determine the new nominal value.”

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that claim 15 is patentable over Brown.

New claim 35 defines a tire pressure monitoring method which includes a further step of “detecting changes in said determined tire pressure and a temporal course thereof,” and which further recites that the stored nominal pressure value is replaced “when the temporal course of a change in air pressure

follows a pattern that is indicative of a filling of the tire by an operator, replacing the stored nominal value by a new nominal value, with the determined tire pressure value being used to establish the new nominal value.” Support for new claim 35 is present in the specification in paragraphs [0028]-[0031], for example. Applicants respectfully submit that new claim 35 distinguishes over the cited references for the same reasons noted above.

Claims 16-21 and 25-34 are patentable due to their dependence from claim 15.

Applicants submit that claims 22-24 are patentable over the prior art due to their dependence from claim 15 and because the Lin and Boesch references fail to make up for the above-described deficiencies of Brown.

### **Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

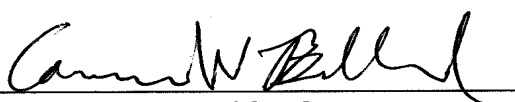
If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

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If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #095309.57883US).

Respectfully submitted,

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